

## Znaniiecki Conference Draws International Speakers and Participants

Florian Znaniiecki was a Professor of Sociology at Illinois from 1940 to 1958. Though Professor Znaniiecki was quite prolific in his scholarly career, his most famous contribution is his renowned immigration study (co-authored with W. I. Thomas), *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America*. In order to honor his legacy and to remain mindful of our own departmental history, we hosted The Znaniiecki Conference and 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Transnational Workshop on April 21 and 22 of this year. These two days of panels and discussion were invigorating, lively, and even drew a few visitors from other university communities to our doorstep. Day 1 of the gathering was focused on Professor Znaniiecki's ideas and an extension of those ideas. Day 2 was a Transnational Workshop that remained in tune with the previous day's proceedings by employing a theme of "Transmigration." Therefore, we were able to observe some of the effects (direct and indirect) of Professor Znaniiecki's work not only in a historical sense, but in a contemporary one as well.

Our keynote speaker on Day 1, Professor Elzbieta Halas of the University of Warsaw, opened up the days' events with some thoughts on "Culture and Power." Furthermore, Professor Halas was making a personal reconnection, as she had been a visiting scholar in our department during the 1980s. She remarked on how glad she was not only to be at the conference but also to be back in Urbana-Champaign, strolling on the Quad, and seeing old faces from her time here. Day 1 concluded with a reception of food and drink in the lobby of the Foreign Languages Building.



Professor Lily Ling of New School University opened up Day 2 for us. Her talk, "Terror and Desire in the Neoliberal Imperium," led us into a day of presentations and discussions that would enlarge our understanding and images of the immigration experience. Professor Ling ended the conference and workshop with some concluding comments. The department was pleased to see an impressive turnout of attendees to both days of the gathering.

Our goal is to certainly host more of these meetings in the future and to reach out to the university community and the wider local community as well. Therefore, we want faculty, students, locals, and alumni to know that we represent more than a department.



We are also a resource and in some respect a citizen that has much to offer as we do the work of Sociology.

Story by Adrian Cruz and Pictures by Jacques Tacq

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## An Interview with Clark McPhail, Professor Emeritus

Clark McPhail was born and raised in Oklahoma City. His father was a blue-collar worker for the telephone company though he worked other jobs as well. His mother was a stay-at-home mom. Professor McPhail holds a Bachelor's degree from Nazarene College, a Master's Degree from the University of Oklahoma, and earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State. Before joining the Sociology faculty in 1969 at Illinois, he held positions at Beloit College in Wisconsin and at the University of South Carolina. Today, Professor McPhail is retired and retains the position of Emeritus Professor. He remains actively involved in his research agenda of studying collective action. As we chatted in a campus area coffee shop this past summer, the good professor informed us that his research was really about the "life course of temporary gatherings." Indeed, this is a vital area of interest in Sociology and other disciplines as well. The study of social gatherings is something that can be insightful and helpful for all of us, regardless of which direction our jobs or interests take us. We see these "temporary gatherings" in protests for and against the Iraq War, the clustering of football fans or desperate people in a domed football stadium in New Orleans, or perhaps in a small meeting of people on the Quad. And it is these kinds of matters, among others, that Professor McPhail makes us think about as we learned about his life and his work in the department of Sociology.

AC: You transferred from a small college in Oklahoma to Nazarene College in Pasadena, California in 1958. That must have been quite a shift for you.

CM: Oh, yeah, it was mind blowing.

AC: Legendary sociologists like C. Wright Mills [author of *The*



Sociological Imagination] can transform our thinking. Has sociology done this for you?  
CM: It's all a function of what kind of training you've had. [In sociology] we look at things from a number of different perspectives and you realize that things are not quite as simple as people may have led you to believe. So, I was drawn to sociology because I thought it was a way of addressing social problems. The more I studied sociology the more I found out that some people can study things to understand how they work. If you understand how things work then you can make them happen or keep them from happening. I didn't know that people could actually get paid money for doing this.

AC: What was the Department of Sociology here at Illinois like when you arrived in 1969?

CM: That was during the anti-War movement. Everything was pretty laid-back. Sociology junior faculty offices were located in a building catty-corner from a bar called Trino's [now Espresso Royale in Urbana]. Trino's was a place where we held classes, we held office hours, and we even held meetings of the faculty.

AC: How did you start down the road of studying collective action?

CM: When I was at the University of

South Carolina from 1966 to 1969, the department there decided to do more than sign petitions in support [of the civil rights movement.] The governor of South Carolina encouraged me to carry out a study of the gatherings of protesters. So I spent about two, three months in the library ransacking journals and card files because I was certain that someplace there would be a recipe for a method of how to observe and record what people do in crowds. Guess what? There wasn't one. So, for two or three months, we [McPhail and his research assistants] looked at films, we went to train stations, airports, student unions, parks, a couple of anti-war demonstrations in Atlanta. We really began to develop a sense of what goes on in crowds. I identified the actors and what they did—anything that people did with or in relation to one another whether it was holding hands or singing or talking or chanting or marching.

AC: So, if you were describing what you do to a layperson with some basic education in sociology, would you say that you study crowds?

CM: No, I would tell them that I study the life course of temporary gatherings. Crowds neither describe nor explain anything. So, if you talk about "temporary gatherings," which is [Erving] Goffman's term, the life course is the assembling process that brings people together. And similarly the dispersion process—the process that takes people from the gathering back to where they come from. A fundamental sociological question is: how is social order possible? How do people fit their acts together to do things collectively that can't be accomplished by people acting alone?

AC: In your decades of doing research on "temporary gatherings,"

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continued

is there one thing that you always see?

**CM:** Yeah, alternating and varied individual and collective behavior. It's a kaleidoscope, not a blanket.

**AC:** So, the L.A. riots in 1992, would that be considered a temporary gathering?

**CM:** Oh, yeah, everybody was not doing the same thing [during those riots]. There was a great variety of behavior going on. As many as 100 people are at one intersection and they're gesturing, they're laughing, they're talking amongst themselves. And there's about half a dozen, maybe ten guys that

were repeatedly going in stopping cars, pulling people out, beating them up. Although, on occasion rescuing them and taking them to the sidelines. But there was a great variety of behavior going on in that gathering at that intersection.

**AC:** Is your wife also a professor?

**CM:** No, she was a stay-at-home mom until the kids were in middle school. Then she worked at the university as a secretary for a number of years. Then she went back to graduate school herself in Early Childhood Education and had a second career for ten years as a kindergarten teacher.

Story and Picture by Adrian Cruz

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## Grants and Awards

This is a partial listing

STEVENS, GILLIAN. 2004–2006 Principal Investigator. "Trajectories of English Acquisition among US Immigrants." NIH, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (\$147,000). Gillian Stevens also received the "Otis Dudley Duncan Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Social Demography" from the ASA Section on the Sociology of Population for the book "America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity" (with Frank D. Bean) 2004.

MCCONNELL, EILEEN DIAZ. 2005 "The State of Hispanic Housing in the United States." Institute of Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame and Nueva Esperanza, Inc. (\$17,000, PI). Reports stemming from the funding: 2005 McConnell, Eileen Diaz. "No Place Like Home: The State of Hispanic Housing in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City, 2003." Research report funded by Esperanza USA, McConnell, Eileen Diaz. "The Roof Over Our Heads: Hispanic Housing in the United States." Brief funded by Esperanza USA, June 2005.

POSTER, WINIFRED, 2005 "Ethnography of the University Program, University of Illinois, Course Development Award (\$4,000). 2005 – Paper Award, Governing the Global Workplace Symposium, University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Industrial Relations Center, and the Carlson School of Management (\$5,000).

SWICEGOOD, GRAY NIH 2001-2006 grant for "Immigration and changes in US Fertility" (\$758,000).

MARSHALL, ANNA received a research board grant for 2004-5 from UIUC "The Controversial role of Lawyers and Legal Strategies in the Environmental Justice Movement." Book in print *Confronting Sexual Harassment The Law and Politics of Everyday Life* Anna-Maria Marshall Series: Law, Justice and Power, 2005.

JUNG, MOON-KIE had a fellowship with the UIUC Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society in 2004-5.

ZERAI, ASSATA 2003–2004 fellowship at the National Development and Research Institutes. In addition Dr. Zerai received a 2003-4 fellowship from the UIUC Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society.

ISHIZAWA, HIROMI received an ASA Children & Youth section award, 2005 and the UIUC Znaniecki Paper Award, 2005.

GRBIC, DOUGLAS, 2005 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Sociology: The Beslow Graduate Paper Award

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## Our Alumni

This is a partial listing (since early 1990s)

Jennifer Harris Requejo: postdoc, Population Research Center, UT of Texas, Austin

Olga Geling: Assistant Professor of Social & Behavioral Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences & Epidemiology, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

(Spencer) De Li: moved from Florida State University to Westat

Alin Ceobanu: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Center for European Studies, University of Florida

Cloe Bird: Associate Behavioral Scientist, Labor & Population division and the Frederick Pardee Graduate School, RAND

David Schweingruber: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University

Nancy Berns: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Drake University

Yang Cai: Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, Caldwell College

Leslie King: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Smith College

Marwin Spiller: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Maine

Stefan Timmerman: Professor, Department of Sociology, UCLA

Maria Niza Lincuanan-Galela: Associate Professor of Sociology, Kent State University, Trumbull

Emily Ignacio: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, University of Washington at Tacoma

Eri Fujieda: Assistant Professor, Sarah Lawrence College

Aya Ezawa: Visiting Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Swathmore College

Anne Herda-Rapp: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Marathon County

M. Casey Condon: Adjunct Professor of Sociology, Portland State University

Marcia Bellas: Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Cincinnati

Ken Gu: State Department of Education, Rhode Island

Khalida Malik: Programme Manager, The United Nations World Food Programme

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## From the Head's Desk

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Welcome to the Fall 2005 issue of *Sociological Outlook*, which, after a hibernation of a few years, has restarted with renewed energy. It has been over a year since I assumed the headship duties in the Department of Sociology. While the economic situation in the State of Illinois hasn't been supportive in the past several years, with the current fiscal year being flat again, I must say that I am fortunate to be blessed with the rich tradition of the Department (which includes everyone of you) and with the support of our faculty, students and staff.

To celebrate this rich sociological heritage of the department, we held a Znaniecki Day on September 10, 2004, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florian Znaniecki's Presidential Address at the American Sociological Association annual meeting (right here in Lincoln Hall Theater!). Florian was an illustrious Illinois sociology professor in the Department from 1940 to 1958 when he died, leaving a tremendous intellectual legacy to

the discipline. To further reflect on his legacy, the Department hosted an academic conference in his honor on April 21, 2005 in tandem with our Transnational Seminar (see Adrian Cruz's report for a detailed coverage of the latter of the two successful events).

Nostalgia seems to linger on this year. In September, Professor Rita Simon, a former member and head of the Department, now of American University, visited the campus and gave a series of talks. (Being a 20-year resident in Urbana from the early 60s to the early 80s, she even went by her old house on Busey.) Clark McPhail, Professor Emeritus but still active in research, whom many of you may remember, is the recipient of the 2005 George Herbert Mead Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Society for the Studies of Symbolic Interaction (see report in the newsletter). Well, the faculty composition today is rather different from the time when you were here. Space limit doesn't allow an individual introduction of them. So I encourage you to



visit our homepage at <http://www.soc.uiuc.edu>. Collectively, they represent our strength in the four areas of Social Dynamics and Structure, Race, Class and Gender, Science and Technology, and Transnational Studies.

Before writing in this column this time next year, I would like to hear from you. Please share with us your whereabouts, recent activities, and memorable events as I am sure your fellow alumni would like to hear about you. Because Fall 2007 will mark the Department's centennial for which we will be planning a reunion, we would also like to hear your suggestions for a successful event. For now, have a wonderful year!

Tim Liao

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## DUGS Update

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by Kimberly Kendall



Welcome to the Department Newsletter. Appearing each Fall semester, this newsletter will include developments, innovations and events within the Sociology Department. It is intended as a partial record of the academic pursuits, intellectual debates and indeed social actions with which sociologists here at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Sociology Department are engaged, as well as a space of acknowledgement for the many awards and other successes of those within that community.

This is an exciting time for our undergraduate program. We are currently serving more than 500 undergraduates as majors minors with faculty and instructors who are consistently named on the University's List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students. The Spring 2005 list included a record number of our excellent teachers with a grand total of 14! In addition, our Department continues to be well regarded in the

profession for the quality of research published by its members. You can find specific award and publication information in the "Grants and Awards" section of this newsletter. You will also find an interesting feature profile on a recent undergraduate Durant Bunch. He is one of the many undergraduate success stories we have. And, we hope you take the opportunity to tell us YOUR story by contacting us. Please take a moment to send us the information indicated on the back page and contact me directly by emailing [kkendall@uiuc.edu](mailto:kkendall@uiuc.edu) if you would like to be featured in future newsletters. Albert Einstein said it best, "Bear in mind that the wonderful things you learn in your schools are the work of many generations."

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I took over the responsibilities of being Director of Graduate Studies from the capable hands of Dr. David Hopping this summer. He left the graduate program in great shape. The recently entering graduate classes are marked by geographic diversity with students coming from around the world — China, Japan, Turkey, Korea — and from across the United States. The entering students are also diverse with respect to their academic backgrounds: they hold undergraduate degrees (and in some cases, graduate degrees) in English, Biology, Neurophysiology, Journalism and Political Science. Our graduate courses and specialties in Race and Inequality, Social Dynamics, Transnational Studies, and Science & Technology have been enriched by the wealth of experience brought in by our new graduate students.

Our more senior graduate students, who are engaged in the preparation or completion of their dissertation research are doing particularly well. They have been successful in earning prestigious predoctoral fellowships and awards from institutions such as the National



Institutes of Health, the Center for Migration Studies at the University of California at San Diego, as well as the UIUC Graduate College.

Even better, our most recent PhD graduates are moving into postdoctoral and professorial positions in academe and into professional research positions. In 2004 and early 2005, the department awarded doctoral degrees to the students listed below. Their names, titles of their dissertations and academic positions are:

Alin Ceobanu. "Public Sentiment on Immigrants and Immigration Policies in Central and Eastern Europe: A Cross-National Multilevel Analysis" (Assistant Professor, University of Florida,

Gainesville, FL)

Xavier Escandell, "Contextual Dynamics of Immigration Attitudes: Regional Differences in Southern Europe" (Assistant Professor, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA)

Maxim Koupovykh, "The Soviet Empire of Signs: A Social and Intellectual History of the Tartu School of Semiotics?" (Research Associate, Swarthmore College, PA)

Jong-Young Kim, "Hybrid Modernity: The Scientific construction of Korean Medicine in a Global Age" (Seoul, Korea)

Diane Muehl, "An Analysis of Medicare: How well is it serving it's constituencies?" (Assistant Professor, State University of New York, Canton NY)

Amit Prasad, "Cultures of Technoscience: A Study of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Research in the United States and India" (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM)

MaryAlice Wu, "A Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives in Two Locations, the Freestanding Birth Center and the Hospital" (Computer Instruction Specialist, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign IL)

Gillian Stevens

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## Lincoln Hall Links

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### Lincoln Hall October 2006



Photograph by Sarah Arciaga

### PLACES TO VISIT

**OUR DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE:** [www.soc.uiuc.edu](http://www.soc.uiuc.edu)

**UIUC ALUMNI:** [www.oed.uiuc.edu](http://www.oed.uiuc.edu); [www.uiaa.org](http://www.uiaa.org)

**ALUMNI TRAVEL:** [www.uiaa.org/explorers](http://www.uiaa.org/explorers)

**UIUC ART:** [www.art.uiuc.edu/galleries/kam/index.html](http://www.art.uiuc.edu/galleries/kam/index.html)

**MILLERCOM LECTURE SERIES:** [www.cas.uiuc.edu/MCar-chiveSP02.html](http://www.cas.uiuc.edu/MCar-chiveSP02.html)

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## Undergraduate Feature Profile

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Durant Bunch II is a recent Graduate in the Department of Sociology completing his degree in May of 2005. Here is his story.

I recently graduated from the University in May 2005 with a BA in Sociology after working hard for five years to finish my degree. Upon the end of my semester at the University, I attended many career fairs and I was able to get a vast amount of contacts from various employers whom I stayed in contact with. A lot of doors opened up and some of them closed along the way, but because of my persistence in hounding my contacts, I was able to land quite a few interviews. One huge corporation was really impressed with me as a candidate for their position and gave me a deadline to get back with them. However, I was a day late and gave them the impression that

I did not want to take the offer. Still, to this date, I try to contact this employer and we have a solid relationship but there's just not any room to bring me on board. So, with that said, persistence as well as following through when opportunities present themselves is the key to landing a job.

Now, I am currently working as an Admissions Advisor for an online University that actually contacted me via monster.com. I am responsible for interviewing, assessing and enrolling students into our accelerated degree programs. For a change I don't have to worry about bringing my work (homework) home with me or have to worry about studying and cramming for exams, but instead I have to treat this position as a career and really be consistent with my professionalism. Probably



the most challenging part of my first "real job" is to change my attitude and think of the job as a career and not just a part time job that I can quit any time I feel. Also, to those of you worried about salary, typically expect to earn an average of \$30,000/year for an entry level position as it was the toughest thing for me to swallow throughout my job search. Many of the positions that are paying more in the entry level are sales and you have to work extra hard just to advance. In conclusion, I would suggest students coming out of school to expect the above salary and to more so concentrate on stability within a company and not necessarily compensation and to be persistent in your search.

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## Summer Interns in Costa Rica 2005

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Undergrads Danielle Borost and Cynthia Chapman brave the rainy season with smiles

Devastating mudslide destroys three homes in Baha De Mecó: refugee village.



The Mighty active Volcano Arenal in La Fortuna

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## Graduate Feature Profile

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It is very hard to condense in a few paragraphs everything that I have learned and experienced during my six years living in Urbana-Champaign. During these years I have not only completed my Ph.D and got ready for the job market but more importantly I met the woman who was to become my wife, built a community of life-long friends, and even improved my tennis forehand.

My interest in Sociology began at the University of Barcelona through a very innovative and stimulating program. During my undergraduate education in Spain I learned the value of sharing ideas with scholars and colleagues from all over the world. I came to appreciate this even more when I began the doctoral program here at UIUC. The program gave me the opportunity to come into contact with a very global epistemic community formed by an internationally diverse body of faculty and graduate students. UIUC has been an ideal setting to undertake my research thanks to this dynamic and stimulating intellectual community. My research project focused on the institutional, economic and demographic forces behind the changing attitudes towards new migrants in the context of Southern Europe. I benefited

greatly from the guidance of a dedicated dissertation advisor and committee as well as the generous funding from various centers and institutions (such as the European Union Center, Center of Iberian and Latin American Studies and the Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as from the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego). UIUC also gave me the opportunity to come into contact with great researchers and social scientists such as the ones working at ATLAS (Applies Technologies for Learning in the Arts and Sciences at UIUC) who became among my best friends.

The UIUC sociology program also encouraged me to continue my education and establish contacts abroad. I followed Tim Liao to England and spent some time in Essex learning Hierarchical Linear Modeling. I also spent time in Italy at the European University Institute in Florence and the Juan March Institute in Madrid, institutions that helped enormously with the data collection for my dissertation. Lastly, the pre-doctoral dissertation fellowship at CCIS allowed me the luxury to work full-time on my dissertation. The University

of California at San Diego not only was an outstanding institution placed in an idyllic setting but also at CCIS I met many researchers from different disciplines interested in immigration who greatly helped me think through my project.

I have recently accepted a tenure track position as an assistant professor at the University of Northern Iowa. I am particularly excited by the position because the University hosts a research center called the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration with which I am becoming actively involved. I am beginning a new research project on attitudes towards immigration in the Midwest as I see many parallels with the situation in Southern Europe. In addition to this new project comes what I expect will be the most challenging one: my wife and I are eagerly expecting our first child in early January.

by Xavier Escandell



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## We Would Like To Know About You

We would like to know about your current activities and the developments in your life and career that you would like to share with others in future editions of this newsletter. You may include pictures for use in future issues. Also, if you know of someone who would like the newsletter and is not receiving it, please send us their address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Research \_\_\_\_\_  
Publications \_\_\_\_\_  
Other News \_\_\_\_\_

We are grateful to everyone who has given to the University. If you wish to contribute directly to the Department, giving is easier than ever. The University Foundation has online giving opportunities at [www.uif.uillinois.edu](http://www.uif.uillinois.edu) (or link from our homepage) as well as phone and mail options. Your giving is not limited to cash or credit, but we can accept securities, property, and gifts-in-kind. The Foundation will assist you with directing your gift to a specific scholarship or our general fund, providing important tax forms and notifying us of your giving. Your gifts are tax deductible. You may direct your gifts directly to the Department if you would prefer--ATTN: Julie Higgs Woolsey at the address below.

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